

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

Exhibit A includes Replacement sheets showing Figures 1-5 and Annotated Marked-up Drawings showing amendments to Figures 1 and 4. Figures 1 and 4 have been amended to correct informalities identified by the examiner. No new matter has been added.

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 and 12-29 are pending with the entry of this Amendment.

Claim 11 has been cancelled.

Claims 28 and 29 have been added.

Applicant's counsel extends his gratitude to Examiner Phan for the courtesies extended during the telephonic discussion in June 2005 regarding abandonment of the subject application. Applicant submitted a petition to withdraw holding of abandonment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.181 on July 27, 2005. The Office granted Applicant's petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.181.

### **Amendment to the Drawings**

Figures 1 and 4 have been amended to reflect the proposed drawing correction suggested by the examiner. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration and acceptance of the amended Figures are hereby respectfully requested.

### **Claim Objections**

Claim 25 has been amended to correct the informality identified by the examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is hereby solicited.

### **Amendment to the Specification**

The specification has been amended to correct improper drawing reference numbers. No new matter has been added.

### **The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102**

At page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,144,561 to Cannella, et al. (“Cannella”). Independent Claim 11 has been cancelled and Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 11. Cannella does not disclose each and every element of Claim 12, as amended, thus the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is improper and must be withdrawn.

The Examiner references Figure 1 of Cannella and asserts that Cannella discloses, *inter alia*, “the external side of said through-connector is downwardly angled to reduce the stress on any attached conductor.” Applicant cannot find any disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Figure 1 of Cannella or in the corresponding portions of the specification for Figure 1 (Col. 4, line 37 to Col. 6, line 49) regarding the assertion. In contrast, Cannella simply discloses that “each rear panel assembly 15 typically includes one or more electrical connectors 50...mounted to the rear panel assembly 15 in a position to allow coupling to a connector 52 of a signal cable, 54... .” (Col. 5, ll. 58-65). This is neither a disclosure nor a teaching of an “external side of said through-connector is downwardly angled to reduce the stress on any attached conductor” as required by Claim 12. Reconsideration and allowance of Claim 12 is hereby respectfully solicited.

At pages 5-6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 17, 20, 21, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,099,391 to Maggelet, et al. (“Maggelet”). Maggelet does not disclose each and every element of

Claim 17, 20, 21, 23 and 24, thus the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is improper and must be withdrawn. Applicant has amended Claims 17, 20 and 23 to clarify the selective attachment and/or selective control of access of remote peripherals to terminations therein.

Maggelet discloses and teaches an adapter plate that provides openings to expose a plurality of input/output devices that are present on a circuit board assembly. For example, the adapter plate provides holes 72 for a screw type fastener to secure the adapter plate, holes (74, 78, 82) for access to a power supply assembly and its associated switches, holes (76, 84) for a battery holder and fuse holder, and holes (80) to provide openings for a power supply status indicator. (Figure 5, Col. 3, line 64 – Col. 4, line 19). Simply put, the adapter plate of Maggelet provides access to devices on a power supply circuit board but does not disclose any selective control or any limit of the accessibility of the terminations of a circuit card as required by Claims 17, 20, 21, 23 and 24.

Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 17, 20, 21, 23 and 24 is hereby respectfully solicited.

### **The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103**

At pages 2-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-10, 13-16, 18, 19, 22 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Maggelet in view of Cannella. The examiner asserts that Maggelet teaches the claimed invention with the exception that Maggelet does not teach a panel having an adaptor for removing the weight of a connector and conductor from the printed circuit board to which it is

connected, and asserts that Cannella in combination with Maggelet, teaches this required limitation. Applicant agrees that Maggelet does not teach a panel having an adaptor for removing the weight of a connector and conductor from the printed circuit board to which it is connected, however, Applicant cannot find any motivation or teaching in either Maggelet or Cannella to combine the references as suggested by the examiner.

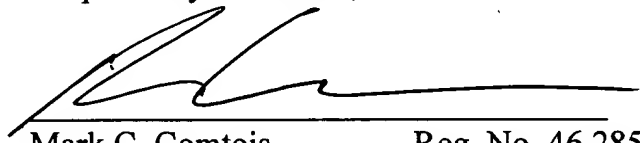
As discussed above, Maggelet is generally directed to a housing or enclosure for a power supply circuit board for programmable logic controllers and discloses an adapter plate that provides openings to expose a plurality of input/output devices that are present on a power supply board assembly but Maggelet does not selectively control or limit the accessibility of any terminations therein. Cannella is generally directed to and discloses a system for circuit board mounting racks allowing a particular slot in the rack to be reconfigured for plug-action with a particular type of circuit module, with input/output signal cables for that type of circuit module coupled to the assembly rather than directly to the circuit module in a Cable TV network. (See Cannella, Col. 1, line 63 – Col. 2, line 27).

Although Maggelet discloses a power supply circuit board provided with an adapter plate that provides openings to expose a plurality of input/output devices present on the circuit board, it is clear that Cannella discloses a system wherein the rack provides openings for direct access to terminals therein and teaches away from providing a system with individual face plates or adaptor plates for each circuit board card (See Cannella, Figure 1). Furthermore, neither Cannella nor Maggelet teach, suggest or disclose any

selective control of or limit to access of circuit board terminations. The rejection under Section 103 is improper and must be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-10, 13-16, 18, 19, 22 and 25-27 is hereby solicited.

A further and favorable action is hereby respectfully solicited. Allowance of Claims 1-10 and 12-29 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark C. Comtois

Reg. No. 46,285

Ryan T. Hardee

Reg. No. 57,515

Attorneys for Applicant

DUANE MORRIS LLP  
1667 K Street, N.W., Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
Telephone: (202) 776-7800  
Telecopier: (202) 776-7801

Dated: August 10, 2006

**EXHIBIT A**

